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Houston * San Antonio * Pittsburgh * Denver
Energy Matters
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EPA says tests in Dimock show water is safe

Federal environmental regulators says well water testing at 11 homes in Dimock, a northeastern Pennsylvania village where a Marcellus Shale gas driller was accused of polluting the aquifer, fails to show elevated levels of contamination. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says test results “did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern.” Read More.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP977e9c6d3cb74a9cb030fe9bb7d32d15.html>

Poll shows support increases for oil and gas, drops for alternative energy

A greater proportion of Americans views increasing production of oil, natural gas, and coal as more important than further developing alternative energy, according to a new poll. The Pew Research Center survey finds that the margin held by alternative energy has shrunk 21 percentage points since March 2011. Read More.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/03/19/poll-oil-gas-and-coal-gain-favor-as-alternatives-slip/>

Expert: Energy industry doesn't really get subsidies - but renewables do

Despite President Obama’s attack on “subsidies” for oil and gas companies, the industry doesn’t actually receive them, says a Southern Methodist University professor and energy expert. What they do receive are tax deductions that are available to most manufacturers.

On the other hand, renewables get \$12.5 billion in subsidies each year - and that can no longer be justified. Read More.

<http://www.chron.com/default/article/What-is-a-subsidy-anyhow-3416907.php>

North Dakota emerging as world’s fastest-growing oil frontier

Energy companies in the Bakken shale patch have boosted activity recently thanks to an exceptionally mild winter, collapsing natural gas prices, and an influx of oil workers trained in the specialized tasks required to prepare wells for production. As output accelerates, North Dakota is expected to overtake Alaska as the second-largest U.S. producer within months. Read More.

http://business.financialpost.com/2012/03/19/natural-gas-pain-is-oils-gain-as-frack-crews-head-to-north-dakota/?_lsa=52ad8037

New studies underscore optimism over Marcellus bounty of shale gas

The Marcellus Shale’s bounty of natural gas is likely close to some of the most optimistic early projections, according to the private sector and university researchers who have been butting heads with federal analysts over the size. The mile-deep rock layer probably has about 500 trillion cubic feet of commercially recoverable gas, say two new reports. Read More.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_787326.html

Findings of health report critical of oil, gas development called “unquestionably flawed”

A study from the Colorado School of Public Health says the development of oil and natural gas can cause “serious health impacts,” generating the predictable scare headlines. But a closer look at the “strange assumptions” that underline the report show that the conclusions are “unquestionably flawed,” says Energy In Depth. Read More.

<http://www.energyindepth.org/non-elite-eight-worst-inputs-used-in-new-colorado-health-study/>

Ohio governor’s proposed energy policy greeted with caution, rage

Reactions to Ohio Gov. John’s Kasich’s plan to rewrite Ohio’s energy policy - which includes a \$25,000 fee for every well drilled - range from caution to disappointment to rage. The far-reaching 10-part package touches on an array of issues, including shale gas wells, gas pipelines, smart grid technologies, power generation, and workforce development. Read More.

http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2012/03/gov_john_kasichs_rewrite_of_oh.html

Proposed emission rules seen crippling unconventional drilling operations

Proposed federal rules on emissions from oil and gas production could cause unconventional drilling operations to plummet, according to a new report for the American Petroleum Institute. The study concludes that drilling involving hydraulic fracturing could drop anywhere from 31 percent to 52 percent between 2012 and 2015 if the regulations are finalized this year. Read More.

<http://www.chron.com/business/article/Report-says-EPA-rules-a-threat-to-hydraulic-3410868.php>

New data fuels both sides of argument on domestic energy development

The latest data on oil and natural gas fuels new arguments on whether the Obama Administration is out to squelch American-bred energy. Oil production from federal lands and federal offshore waters fell sharply last year, and was also down since 2003. But it’s up 12 percent since Barack Obama took office. Republicans and the White House try to spin the numbers to their benefit. Read More.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0312/74091.html>

Senate Democrats say U.S. regulators should get more input from states, energy industry

Federal regulators contemplating proposals involving unconventional oil and gas production should pursue a meaningful partnership with states and the industry to prevent duplicative and confusing requirements, two Senate Democrats suggest. Otherwise, they could stifle economic growth and risk improved energy security with burdensome, inefficient regulations. Read More.

<http://www.ogj.com/articles/2012/03/washington-urged-to-get-more-input-from-states-industry.html>

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